

**SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
of the
SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE**

Minutes

A regular meeting of the Social Services Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature was held in the Rose Y. Caracappa Legislative Auditorium of the William H. Rogers Legislature Building, Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York on Tuesday, April 9, 2002.

Members Present:

Legislator Paul Tonna - Chairman
Legislator Vivian Fisher - Vice-Chair
Legislator Brian Foley
Legislator William Lindsay
Legislator Lynne Nowick
Legislator Caracciolo

Also In Attendance:

Paul Sabatino II - Counsel to the Legislature
Dan Hickey - Commissioner of Social Services
Sylvia Diaz - Deputy Commissioner of Social Services
Bill Jones - Department of Social Services
Ellen Martin - Aide to Legislator Tonna
Kim Brandeau - Budget Review Office
Bill Faulk - County Executive's Office
All other interested parties

Minutes Taken By:

Donna Barrett - Court Stenographer
(*THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 11:35 P.M.*)

CHAIRMAN TONNA:

Okay. All rise for the Pledge led by Budget Review.

SALUTATION

CHAIRMAN TONNA:

Okay. I know we're going to have, I guess, some discussion. We have a few resolutions first, let's get through the resolutions first, and then there's some questions that we have. First of all, I wanted to thank the Department of Social Services. I know, you know, that you guys come out in full force. Any questions that are asked, you're always ready to answer, I appreciate all of that. Commissioner, I think we've been doing, at least with me as Chair for the last few years -- you know, I can feel the love.

INTRODUCTORY RESOLUTIONS

1291-02. Establishing policy for placement of convicted sexual predators in Suffolk County. (CARACAPPA)

CHAIRMAN TONNA:

Let's -- let's start with Introductory Resolution number 1291. I'm going to make a motion, seconded by Legislator Caracciolo, who is our newest member to this committee. So thank you, Michael, and welcome. We appreciate your insight, your experience and whatever else you bring to the table. All in favor?

LEG. FISHER:

May I ask a question about this. I'll wait for Legal Counsel to come back.

CHAIRMAN TONNA:

I don't even know if he's here. I can say, Paul do you have a question, yes, let me look that up.

LEG. FISHER:

I'll wait until Counsel comes out here.

CHAIRMAN TONNA:

Okay. All right. So we'll hold off on voting for this.

LEG. FISHER:

No. No. No. I have no problem with this. I have a question regarding Megan's Law and how it really -- how this would function in the County.

CHAIRMAN TONNA:

I just -- you have the bill in front of you. It's establishing policy for placement of convicted -- just because the title is a little misleading, we're not placing them into jobs, right? This is to place them on a registration, right? Okay. There's a motion and a second. All in favor? Opposed? Great. And I'll make a motion to place that on the consent calender. 1291.

LEG. FOLEY:

I think given the importance of the issue, and we're not prime, I would also ask that whoever is prime that given the importance of the issue that it should be on the regular agenda so it's not part and parcel of the Omnibus portion of the agenda.

CHAIRMAN TONNA:

Okay. Number 13 --

LEG. FISHER:

Counsel is back. May I just ask the question before we move away. Paul, 1291 is establishing policy placement. Now, is this -- it doesn't -- the resolution doesn't mention Megan's Law per se, but maybe it's because it has a different name officially. It's right here.

MR. SABATINO:

I have it. It makes reference, not by name, but by -- what do you call it -- by the citation in the statute. At one point -- I forget what paragraph it's in -- but it talks in terms of sections, not the phrase. Megan's Law is a colloquialism as opposed to the actual --

LEG. FISHER:

It mentions decisions, a Supreme Court decision.

MR. SABATINO:

If you look at article -- Article 6-C, which is in the fourth or fifth whereas clause, that particular statute is the Section Offenders Registration Act.

LEG. FISHER:

Okay. And how will this refine the Registration Act? Because we

already have that in place.

MR. SABATINO:

This is not -- maybe this requires a little more explanation. This is -- this is dealing with the issue of trying to put restrictions on the placement of sexual predators that fall within the Sex Registration Act within the County of Suffolk where County funding is involved. It can only be in a situation where there's some kind of County funding mechanism, you know, partially or fully in place. The County doesn't have the ability to unilaterally impose that requirement, so what this statute is asking, is it's requesting the State of New York, which would have the authority to grant the waiver to allow Suffolk County to put that restriction on places within 1000 feet of any -- and then it lists the categories; private school, elementary, middle, high school, nursery school, day care facility, nursing home, adult day care facility, church, senior citizen center. The predicate for doing that are the two Supreme Court cases that are cited earlier in the legislation, each of which the United States Supreme Court said that you can do something even more significant than putting a restriction on where a place -- a person is going to reside, but they've actually said that you can imprison somebody on a civil basis after, you know, criminal -- after the criminal penalty has been imposed. So the theory is that if the United States Supreme Court will allow something as dramatic as total confinement, there should be the ability to have

something less dramatic, which is a restriction or a limitation. But this is not going to unilaterally impose it because we don't have the ability at this point to do that.

LEG. FISHER:

All right. Then I think it is important that this not be on the consent calendar. Mr. Chair, I think it's -- I think that clarification was very important, because it actually is the placement of the sex offenders, the actual placement of the people is what this is referring to.

CHAIRMAN TONNA:

What is it referring to?

LEG. FISHER:

That we cannot -- we won't be placing them in sober homes that are near -- sober houses that near nursery schools or schools 1000 feet. So it's a complicated resolution, so it certainly, I think requires some discussion.

MR. SABATINO:

It's complicated and controversial.

CHAIRMAN TONNA:

Okay. Let's can you just, one more time because I was -- Paul, I apologize. My attention span, you know, is about 30 seconds, so you have 29 seconds left.

MR. SABATINO:

I broke the rule by 45 seconds. All right. Let me try the truncated version. Legislator Caracappa was looking for a mechanism to try to put restrictions -- not bans, but restrictions -- on the placement of people who have a sexual predator status in situations where the County of Suffolk would have some jurisdictions. The only place that we can find jurisdiction is where the County is funding either

partially or fully placements, whether they be, you know, sober houses or residential facilities or whatever. However, we can't unilaterally impose it. So what this bill is calling for is it's requesting State of New York under a particular section of state law to grant a waiver to Suffolk County so that it would be able to restrict the placement of people who fall within one of those convicted sexual predator categories within 1000 feet of the following facilities; a private school, which would be elementary, middle or high school, a public school, same category, nursery school, day care facility, nursing home, adult day care facility, church or senior citizen center or facility. And if the waiver were to be granted then the County would have the ability to restrict placement where there's County funding, not private situations, but where there's County funding within 1000 feet of those facilities.

CHAIRMAN TONNA:

So, okay. There's somebody who's a convicted sex offender, predator, whatever we want to call them, right?

MR. SABATINO:

You have to meet the criteria under the statute.

CHAIRMAN TONNA:

Okay. They're under one of those statutes. We technically could be placing them somewhere because why, they're on public assistance or something?

MR. SABATINO:

There could be a situation where that individual has become eligible for some form of County assistance, and he or she --

CHAIRMAN TONNA:

Why don't we just chemically castrate them first?

MR. SABATINO:

That's another option, which was tried in California 1996. We passed a memorializing resolution requesting something similar about two years ago or three years ago.

CHAIRMAN TONNA:

Just a thought. Okay. Thank you.

LEG. FISHER:

I have another question, I'm sorry. This is a procedural question, Paul. Don't we -- when we are asking for a waiver or for the state to give us the ability to do something, isn't it usually done through a Sense, a memorializing or Home Rule Message, rather than a straight resolution? I'm just confused about that.

MR. SABATINO:

No. We -- back in the mid and early 1990s, two reasons we used these types of resolution when we were looking for modifications pre 1996 on some of the welfare policies, the welfare programs that were being instituted at the state and federal level, the reason you need a resolution is because you're directed Social Services with time lines to perform certain acts. So you're saying file the waiver, these are the perimeters, do it by dates certain, and then if, in fact, the waiver comes down, this is what's going to be implemented. So that's why you need a resolution with binding effect as opposed to the

memorializing.

CHAIRMAN TONNA:

Just to ask, and maybe, Dan, just a quick question, are you aware of when somebody applies or something that they have sex offender status or something like that? Would the Department of Social Services already be aware of somebody in one of their sober homes or something like that whether they are -- come from that situation?

COMMISSIONER HICKEY:

From the Police Department when people are being released.

CHAIRMAN TONNA:

Dan, come up, Dan, so you're on the record.

COMMISSIONER HICKEY:

We do get a bulletin from the Suffolk County Police Department when individuals that fit their criteria are being released in the

community. They may not necessarily have anything to do with welfare.

CHAIRMAN TONNA:

Does the -- does the Police Department -- is there some type of check ever from Social Services to the Police Department about if there's anybody who obviously is coming to access services, housing services or something like that or?

COMMISSIONER HICKEY:

There is no current way that we could, you know, put the information in the system to share it with those people. We do share it routinely with the Family and Children Services Bureau who are dealing with domestic violence and things of that nature with the children.

CHAIRMAN TONNA:

Okay. So if, for example, I'm just trying to think of a homeless shelter, right, a guy comes in, he qualifies because he's homeless or whatever else and needs a place, now some of those shelters have families in them or whatever else, right, young kids or whatever. Is there ever -- is there ever -- do they go through some type of basic screening process through the Police Department to find out if they were past felonies or?

COMMISSIONER HICKEY:

No. Not necessarily, no.

CHAIRMAN TONNA:

Okay. All right.

LEG. FISHER:

I have another question for Dan.

CHAIRMAN TONNA:

Wait. I'm just thinking -- just thinking about it, I know it has -- it probably hasn't been a problem.

COMMISSIONER HICKEY:

I, you know -- frankly, I don't know how we're going to enforce it. We're going to have to do a lot of research on that, and I'm not sure all of the agencies, because they don't name all of them, that we're

going to have to get waivers from.

CHAIRMAN TONNA:

But just -- I'm just wondering if there's any kind of basic police check --

COMMISSIONER HICKEY:

No.

CHAIRMAN TONNA:

-- that the Police Department can do when you're putting somebody into a homeless shelter or into, you know, a place where there might be families with little children or whatever else. What's to protect --

COMMISSIONER HICKEY:

Well, those -- those children are in the custody of their parent or

parents when they're in the shelter and the shelter also has manned staff. But people do come in and ask for welfare benefits, and they are given cash assistance, and they are allowed to go live wherever they chose. I mean, we don't -- we don't place them.

CHAIRMAN TONNA:

I'm thinking more of those who are, you know, who might be put temporarily together with families.

COMMISSIONER HICKEY:

Routinely the only place that we do, you know, a criminal investigation check is anybody who routinely works with children. I mean, we do do that for child care up and down the line, but that's it. And that's a very cumbersome process because we have to fingerprint people.

LEG. FISHER:

But aren't there list because of Megan's Law. I mean, you have that list available, right? Just --

MS. DIAZ:

May I interject? Sylvia Diaz, Chief Deputy Commissioner. Just this year we've implemented a policy whereby we notify our housing workers. When we get the notices, we pass them along to the housing workers, and they have been cross checking for those we place in motels and shelters. Just for your information. That's a new policy this year. We've not had any hits as yet.

COMMISSIONER HICKEY:

But that is a manual policy, and that is the result of an incident that we -- not an incident, but something that we became aware of earlier this year prior to the law coming down. But we do have, you know, five shelter -- centers, and we have hundreds and hundreds of people coming through our door everyday. And we do not have a mechanized or automated system to be able to have that person pop up when they come for services. So they're maybe some difficulty since it's a state system to be able to address that kind of an enforcement issue. That's the major problem, you know, we see with it. Other than that, I think we would all be in agreement.

LEG. FISHER:

Dan, you mentioned the difficulty in enforcement. Last year, we spent a great deal of time speaking about sober houses. And the oversight

of sober houses. So it would seem to me that this would be particularly difficulty to enforce regarding sober houses where we don't really have really tight enforcement capabilities there.

COMMISSIONER HICKEY:

There are hundreds of sober homes out there that have nothing to do with the Department of Social Services.

LEG. FISHER:

So then how could this -- how could we implement this with regard to sober houses?

COMMISSIONER HICKEY:

As I have -- as I have said to you, I have not figured that out. We're going to have to do a lot of homework to be able to --

LEG. FISHER:

I just wanted to emphasize that because you did say that, and I remembered we could not get that authority when Fred Towle had presented -- you all remember the issue that we discussed with sober houses about a year ago, two years ago. And we don't have that.

COMMISSIONER HICKEY:

As a matter of fact, we are under an existing restraint from the federal government in terms of implementing certain legislation in sober houses because we were found guilty as a County of discrimination in the past.

LEG. CARACCILOLO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Dan, what is the population of the universe that we're looking at here in terms of numbers that are -- in other words, if you look at the categories in the resolution? Would be able to give us some idea?

COMMISSIONER HICKEY:

The shelter and motel population, which I think is what it basically addresses is about 500 families, over 2,000 people.

LEG. CARACCILOLO:

Okay. So it's not tens of thousands of people, it's not, you know, a million people, it's a relatively small number. Now, would you make a suggestion -- since I'm one of the co-sponsors along with Legislator Nowick and -- and Legislator Towle and Bishop -- would you make a -- would you like to make any recommendations for possible amendment before the committee and the Legislature consider this in its entirety?

COMMISSIONER HICKEY:

We are researching this with the County Attorney's Office and Albany, and we would be happy to sit down with you and maybe modify it in a way that it will work and get it accomplished, absolutely.

LEG. CARACCILOLO:

Let's table the resolution, take a better look at it.

CHAIRMAN TONNA:

I'll make a motion to reconsider, seconded by Legislator Caracciolo. All in favor? Opposed? Now it's in front of us.

LEG. CARACCIOLO:

I'll make a motion to table --

LEG. FISHER:

I'll second it.

LEG. CARACCIOLO:

-- but at the same time, Mr, Chairman, I would request the department, if you can give us a sense of how much time you would need and convey that to the prime sponsor, Legislator Caracappa.

CHAIRMAN TONNA:

The prime committee is Public Safety. They meet Tom, so maybe we could just, our staff, pass it along to both the sponsor -- Ellen, I hold you responsible for just calling Legislator Caracappa, and then talking to the Chairman of Public Safety, and maybe she could be encouraged to talk to the Commissioner, just to talk a little about that issue, okay?

LEG. FISHER:

Particularly the sober houses, which have been so thorny. We have had -- not had the ability to really do the kind of supervision that this would require.

MR. SABATINO:

The potential link here though would be if there's -- if there's any source of funding from the County, that would be the link.

CHAIRMAN TONNA:

All in favor? Opposed? We have the vote, right?

TABLED (VOTE:6-0-0-0)

1334-02. Accepting and appropriating 100% federal funds to provide services to children and families impacted by the World Trade Center Disaster, provide preventive services to assist in avoiding long term residential placement, create positions, and authorizing the County Executive and the Commissioner of Social Services to execute contracts. (COUNTY EXECUTIVE)

CHAIRMAN TONNA:

Let's go to Resolution Number 1334. I'll make the motion to approve --

LEG. FOLEY:

Second.

CHAIRMAN TONNA:

-- seconded by Legislator Foley.

LEG. FISHER:

Motion to place on the consent calender.

CHAIRMAN TONNA:

I'll second that. All in favor? Opposed? Put that on the consent calender. APPROVED (VOTE:6-0-0-0)

1343-02. Authorizing the extension of a lease of premises located on Straight Path and Wyandanch Avenue, NY, for the Department of Social Services. (COUNTY EXECUTIVE)

CHAIRMAN TONNA:

Resolution 1343, I'll make a motion to approve, seconded by Legislator Fisher --

LEG. FOLEY:

On the -- on the motion.

CHAIRMAN TONNA:

On the motion. And then, Dan, maybe you could speak on this also after Legislator Foley speaks.

LEG. FOLEY:

Mr. Chairman, required by a law is a public disclosure statement to be filled out by the landlord. And there's no disclosure statement appended to the resolution. Now, I don't know whether there's one in the Clerk's Office, but this has happened before. And if there is one in the Clerk's Office, the clerk -- the Legislative Clerk, it's supposed to be part of every rental resolution that comes before us, that that public disclosure statement has to be part of this -- part of the resolution.

CHAIRMAN TONNA:

Do we have that, Paul?

MR. SABATINO:

I didn't see it, but it maybe on file with the Clerk's Office. I'm not saying it's --

LEG. FOLEY:

Can we get an answer before the end of the committee meeting. If it's not filed, then we going to have to table it for two weeks.

CHAIRMAN TONNA:

Ellen or Jim, somebody go to the Clerk's Office and find out.

CHAIRMAN TONNA:

Okay. We also have sense, so we'll put this -- we'll hold this off until somebody gets an answer.

SENSE 20-2002. Memorializing resolution requesting State of New York to adopt pay equity for female employees. (NOWICK)

CHAIRMAN TONNA:

Sense 20, Legislator Nowick's. Motion by Legislator Nowick. Did I say Nowack again? Nowick. I can't believe it. Like no wick, you know, like a candle, no wick. I'm in big trouble. Anyway. So there's a motion by Legislator Nowick, seconded by myself. All in favor? Opposed? Great. APPROVED (VOTE: 6-0-0-0)

LEG. FISHER:

Would you mind if I seconded it as the second woman on the committee?

CHAIRMAN TONNA:

Sure. By the Women's Caucus, no problem. Make the second by Legislator Fisher, as in fish-er.

LEG. FISHER:

He wouldn't even try Vloria.

CHAIRMAN TONNA:

Vllloria. I did Vloria. I got that right. Vivian Vloria Fisher.
Gloria, that's Gloria. Okay. Since you're here, Commissioner, I've

had some Legislators ask me some questions -- if I would ask you some questions about the PINS Program, that's persons in need of supervision. And I don't -- I thought that maybe I would ask the questions knowing that you probably don't have the answers today and stuff like that, but to get back to us maybe at the next committee meeting.

COMMISSIONER HICKEY:
I'll answer what I can.

CHAIRMAN TONNA:
Okay. I know that we've put together -- there's a committee, if I'm not mistaken, a Strike Task Force, who yourself, I guess, from Probation, Vinny, Janet DeMarzo from the County Executive's Office, they are people for the Budget Office, Budget Review, I think, Ellen, you sit on that committee, right, the attorneys, the County Attorney's Office and the Health Department.

COMMISSIONER HICKEY:
And also an individual from the court.

CHAIRMAN TONNA:
From the courts? Okay, great. The -- a number of questions. In the end of the first quarter of 2002 -- and I'll give you the list of questions, I asked Budget Review to draw them up for me. At the end of the first quarter of 2002, what has the task force accomplished? Maybe we can get a report on that at our next committee meeting. What efforts have been made to contain the costs? What are the specific recommendations for containing those costs? How much will your recommendation save in 2002? What is the title and names of the staff members who will be instituting the proposed cost contained changes? Will you be within your budget this year? What are your budget projections for 2003? I understand that that's a little premature of a question, you're still coming up with it, but just to get a ballpark figure of where you guys -- of what we're looking at. We know that Newsday has reported that our cost increases are much more than other counties, the answer of why, have we contacted other counties to find out what they are doing. Have we been signing travel vouchers, that's a question to me. Oh, I guess I'm the one, I say no almost everything. Have we been signing travel vouchers for you and you top level staff to attend meeting with other Social Service Commissioners in Albany? Are you and they lobbying to postpone or rescind the PINS age increase to 18? So I guess we have to have a conversation about that, because I know I'm not signing travel vouchers in general. But everyone once in while, I guess. What is the estimated impact of the expansion of the PINS age to 18, which will take place in July of 2002? So basically, what we're looking for ans the questions, I guess, you know, point to, a report maybe at our next committee with regard to the PINS Program, and specifically focusing on the budgetary impact.

LEG. FISHER:
Mr. Chairman, may I ask a question.

CHAIRMAN TONNA:
No.

LEG. FISHER:
No?

CHAIRMAN TONNA:
There is no disclosure?

LEG. FISHER:
I thought you were saying no to me.

CHAIRMAN TONNA:
Vivian, you know that would be very irregular of me to ever say no to you. I'll just say no to the question that Legislator Foley asked. Wherever you are Legislator Foley. And so maybe what I would like to do is since there is no financial disclosure form for 1343, I'm going to make a motion to table.

LEG. CARACCIOLO:
Second.

CHAIRMAN TONNA:
Seconded by Legislator Caracciolo.

LEG. CARACCIOLO:
Mr. Chairman, on the Resolution 1343, I'd also make note for the record that unless I have a preliminary copy, the copy that's been provided to me of the first amendment to the lease requires a signature of both the landlord and the County representative, in this case, the Chief Deputy County Executive, and my copy has a blank there. It has not been executed, so I would request that before we take up this resolution, there be a signature by a County representative.

MR. SABATINO:
It wouldn't be signed because we need the resolution to authorize --

LEG. CARACCIOLO:
Okay. So it's -- that's good to know.

CHAIRMAN TONNA:
So on 1343 we'll make a motion to table and a second based because they don't have the financial backing -- background stuff. All in favor? Opposed? TABLED (VOTE: 6-0-0-0)

Legislator Foley, you have something to say.

LEG. FOLEY:
Just -- if they're trying -- if they're trying to let's say thread the needle by saying that this is not a new agreement, but an extension of an existing license, it's my understanding that the legislation that I had sponsored years back covered all leases, whether they were renewal of leases, new leases, extensions of leases. So, you know, no one on the Executive Branch should try to, you know, make these -- these distinctions of difference kinds of leases. Every one of them is supposed to have this financial disclosure -- public disclosure statement attached to every resolution coming before us.

CHAIRMAN TONNA:
Thank you. Okay. Just one other thing. I know that behind the scenes, I want to thank of Department of Social Services. I know we have been working on a number of different projects, and I know that

you're meeting with Catholic Charities and other groups and stuff, and there's seems to be a real openness and dialog, and that's, you know, the way things should be. So I just want to thank you, Dan, and your staff. One other issue, I think that I have, COA, Council on Accreditation. Where are we with that? Are we still moving forward with checking out and -- I know it's something that I again, have been very insistent on. I think it's an important thing. I've also talked to a lot of not for profit organizations -- just waiting for Catholic Charities to get a hold of this -- but I think everybody who receives funding from Suffolk County should go through an accrediting -- not accreditating -- an accrediting process. And so I just want to know where we are because I'd like to lead by example, our Department of Social Services. Where are we?

MS. DIAZ:

Actually, I just received a package from the Joint Commission, JCAHO. They also have a behavioral sciences evaluation process, and we are currently -- it's a big huge box of material, and obviously, JCAHO has a tremendous reputation for reviewing health care facilities, nationally. So we're reviewing that.

CHAIRMAN TONNA:

That's J-O-C-O-A, I mean --

MS. DIAZ:

It's Joint Commission, J-C-C-A-H-O, I think. I think that's it. And we're reviewing those materials now. They seem very good at first glance. So we have some questions into them. They're responding to those questions. So, you know, we have a number -- you know, we thought that perhaps there would -- there could be more than one accrediting body. And so we -- we have undertaken an evaluation of the evaluators, and we're sort of in preliminary stages of that now.

CHAIRMAN TONNA:

If we could, and, you know, I'm not wed to whether it be, you know, Council on Accreditation or another group, you know, that can be judged. But the whole idea is to be able to have an outside agencies without, you know, a non political outside agencies to be able to look openly and say, look, it might be a three year process or five year process or whatever else. We know that there are dollars associated with regard to whatever recommendations they make, but we, you know, we think it's a good way to move forward.

COMMISSIONER HICKEY:

Let me say, definitively, we are moving forward with it. We are going to try to establish how much money Monday it is going to cost for the studies to do it. Ans we will be putting that money in this -- in this budget for 2003 so that we can begin the process as early as --

CHAIRMAN TONNA:

Maybe the next committee meeting we could just talk a little bit

about. Or, you know, I -- Chris, I don't know, maybe just to prepare something to give us a state of, you know, the Department of Social Services where we are with that, okay?

MS. DIAZ:

I wasn't sure also if we would end up in an RFP process with this.

CHAIRMAN TONNA:

I'd have to talk to our -- the one thing is I know because we belong to the -- what is it? The -- yeah, the proceeds goes -- the process goes -- if we use the Council on Accreditation, there's a huge savings or something involved. So, yeah, Chris, could you tell me what --

MS. DIAZ:
Actually, my --

CHAIRMAN TONNA:
It's part of our participate in --

MS. REIMANN:
The Child Welfare League of America.

CHAIRMAN TONNA:
Right. And because of that the Council on Accreditation --

MS. REIMANN:
Would give us a break, but on the other hand, the fees would be increased for you to notch up your membership.

COMMISSIONER HICKEY:
It was a wash, I think.

CHAIRMAN TONNA:
Right.

MS. DIAZ:
That's actually why we wanted to look at what other groups would charge us too. And actually, it seems that these -- these bodies tend to be -- they negotiate. So, you know, we can have a --

CHAIRMAN TONNA:
That would be great. I love negotiations.

COMMISSIONER HICKEY:
We are going forward.

CHAIRMAN TONNA:
Okay. Great. Bill.

LEG. LINDSAY:
Just a different subject. I was wondering if the Commission -- are you's aware of any kind of traffic problem getting in and out of our Coram site?

COMMISSIONER HICKEY:
Just, Brian told me the other day that there was an accident down there, but I haven't been specifically aware. Bill, have you heard anything?

MR. JONES:
No. Just that we're certainly aware --

CHAIRMAN TONNA:
Bill, why don't you come to the microphone and introduce yourself and tell us who your hair stylist is.

MR. JONES:

Bill Jones.

CHAIRMAN TONNA:

If I had hair, Bill, I want you to know I'd wear it just like you.

MR. JONES:

Just that we're aware that Route 112 is -- it's a tough turn at that location, and that that's what we're aware of.

LEG. LINDSAY:

I have some constituents that work in Social Services at that site. They have complained to me that there was an accident involving an employee, I believe, and they claim it's a very dangerous situation. And, Mr. Chairman, I was wondering if it would be appropriate if the committee could make a recommendation to Public Works to do a traffic study there to see if it could be alleviated in any way.

CHAIRMAN TONNA:

I would say, Billy, be it that you're so highly respected in this County that if you call the Commissioner of Public Works and the Chairman of Public Works, you have the vice-Chairman right there. If we need a bill or whatever we need to do, I don't think that's a problem.

LEG. FOLEY:

Just on that point, and it's well taken. From what I have been told there was at least three, if not four accidents within a short period of time. Being that it's a state road, Route 112, what I had mentioned to the Commissioner was -- as the -- we were going to do it in my office, we could do it here as a committee here, but also for the Commissioner to directly call the new Regional Director of the State DOT, and to have his top traffic safety engineers take an immediate look at a location. There's a long term plan to make roadway improvements from -- from Granny Road up to -- up to 25, if not north of 25, but the problem is that in the mean time, there is an a problem there. So it's one lane in each direction, the most immediate answer, perhaps, would be a center turning lane, but then you're talking about some other work that would have to be done. But I think to get the process rolling, as Legislator Lindsay had mentioned, if the Commissioner could speak to the State DOT, we as Legislators will as well. Some had discussed in the past about installation of a traffic signal out there if there can't be any road widening of that intersection in the -- in the immediate future, so.

COMMISSIONER HICKEY:

And possibly if, you know, the police could step up enforcement of speeding too. Because they do go down that road --

LEG. FOLEY:

That's the 6th Precinct. Okay.

CHAIRMAN TONNA:

Okay. Thank you very much. Being that there is no other business in front of us, all in favor? Opposed? We're -- I think we're going to -- on 1343 we have tabled that bill. All in favor? Opposed? Tabled, and meeting adjourned. Thank you very much.

(*THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 12:10 P.M.*)

{ } DENOTES BEING SPELLED PHONETICALLY